Recovery of occupied Indian Territory

2692. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister on February 28, 1999 summing up the outcome of the talks with his Pakistani counterpart in Lahore on February 20, 1999 had stated that "India was determined not to lose its territory any further"; and

(b) how far it reflects a clear departure from India's stand as spelt out in the Parliament's resolution affirming India's right over the area under Pakistani and Chinese occupations in so far as the statement was silent about India's right to recover occupied territory?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is committed to upholding the Constitution of India. The unity and territorial integrity of India will not be compromised. There is no change in Government's position regarding Pakistan's forcible and illegal occupation of a part of the territory of the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Further, our consistent and well known position is that an area of approximately 38,000 sq. kms of territory in the State of Jammu & Kashmir is under the illegal occupation of China. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan 'Boundary Agreement' of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms of Indian territory in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir to China. India and China are committed to working towards a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question.

Dialogue with G-7 on trade and currency Issue

2693. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the recent G-15 Summit in Jamaica, there was a consensus among member nations to adopt a unified approach in its dialogue with G-7 on trade and currency issues; and

(b) if so, what precise moves have since been made in pursuance of this decisions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Summit agreed to consult with the trading partners in the WTO in order to ensure the realisation of the objectives of developing countries and their need to achieve sustainable levels of economic growth. The Summit emphasised that to stave off any threat of world economic recession, countries must resist the pressures for protectionism and markets must remain open, foreign direct investment must be increased and access to capital markets, both private and concessional, must be available to developing countries in safe and predictable terms. It accordingly recommended continuation and deepening of G-15's dialogue with the G-7 on these and other such issues of critical concern to developing countries. India's offer to host a meeting of G-15 countries, at an appropriate level, in preparation for the Third WTO Ministerial Conference in order to facilitate a unified approach of developing countries on trade and related issues was welcomed by member countries.

Right to self-determination to Kashmir people

2694. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards Pak Premier's statement on March 1, 1999 to the effect that the Prime Minister of India during his bus visit to Lahore on February 20, 1999 had agreed to the right to self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir; and